



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE



Hanford Reach National Monument
Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge
3250 Port of Benton Boulevard
Richland, Washington 99352
Phone: (509) 371-1801 Fax: (509) 375-0196

FWS-07-0003

December 6, 2006

Dear Reader:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is pleased to present you a copy of the *Draft Hanford Reach National Monument (Monument) Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (CCP/EIS)* for your review and comment. This draft CCP/EIS is the culmination of years of work by FWS staff, the Monument Federal Advisory Committee, cooperating agencies, consulting governments, and the public. It represents the starting point for further discussion from the comments you will provide us over the next couple of months. In the end, we believe we will have a strong management plan for the Monument, one that protects the outstanding resources we currently have, restores those that have been damaged, and provides you the opportunity to enjoy your national monument.

With this letter, the FWS is opening a comment period which closes on February 23, 2007. Please have your comments postmarked by then. In order to make commenting easy and convenient, comments may be submitted in one of several ways:

- 1) Mail your written comments to: **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Draft CCP Comments, 3250 Port of Benton Boulevard, Richland, Washington 99354** (our preferred method).
- 2) Email your comments to **hanfordreach@fws.gov** – be sure to include the phrase “Draft CCP Comments” in the subject line.
- 3) Visit **hanfordreach.fws.gov/comments.html** to submit your comments online. Our web site (**hanfordreach.fws.gov/planning.html**) is also a good place to check for updates, download additional documents, check other background information, etc.
- 4) If time is running short, you can fax your last-minute comments to **(509) 375-0196**, or feel free to drop off your comments at our office during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm).

Be sure to include your name and address on all comments submitted, regardless of format, if you would like to ensure receiving a copy of the final CCP/EIS.

This CCP/EIS is the first step in planning for the Monument. Over time, the FWS will develop finely detailed “step-down” plans for specific activities related to resource protection and public use. For example, the Habitat Management Plan will provide details on everything from areas targeted for restoration to protection mechanisms for specific habitat(s) supporting sensitive wildlife species. One of the step-down plans that already is in draft form is the Invasive Plant Species Inventory and Management Plan (IPSIMP). For those of you receiving a compact disk of the CCP/EIS, the IPSIMP is included on the disk for your review and comment. For everyone else, the IPSIMP can be downloaded from hanfordreach.fws.gov/planning.html. Comments are due at the same time as the CCP/EIS.

To answer your questions, and help you refine your comments on the CCP/EIS, the FWS is holding four public open houses. At these open houses, you will be able to ask FWS staff specific questions—and even provide comments—on the CCP/EIS. The times and locations for the open houses are below; directions are available on our web site.

- Tuesday, January 30, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, in the Mattawa Elementary School gym, 400 North Boundary Road.
- Wednesday, January 31, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, at the Sunnyside Community Center, 1521 South 1st Street.
- Monday, February 5, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, at the Hampton Inn in Richland, 486 Bradley Boulevard.
- Thursday, February 8, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, at the Red Lion Hotel in Pasco, 2525 North 20th Avenue.

If you have any problems in accessing the CCP/EIS, have any questions regarding its content, or need clarification with anything in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us at **(509) 371-1801** or hanfordreach@fws.gov.

Creating this draft and the subsequent final management plan is a team effort, involving everyone who treasures the Hanford Reach National Monument. We thank you for your efforts in getting us to this point, and we look forward to working with you to create the strongest possible management plan that benefits both the environment and visitors to the Monument. We hope to see you at an open house, and we can’t wait to see your thoughts on how to improve the draft management plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory M. Hughes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gregory" being more prominent.

Gregory M. Hughes, Project Leader
Hanford Reach National Monument